

1944—YEAR OF HOPE

It may be that the greatest year in human history is dawning. For us at any rate it seems there has never been a year more weighted with importance than the year 1944. As we stand on the threshold of it the thought of the critical days ahead calms even the most hurried and casual thinker. 1944 is either a year of wonder and rejoicing for mankind, or it is a year of doom and final disaster. These vast alternatives confront each other as the year begins to draw up its curtain and allows us to look into its unknown days.

Never was a year welcomed with more expectancy than this one. Its very name as it stands in the mid-forties of this century will be memorable in human history. As 1940 spoke for the period of disaster and glorious resistance, so 1944 will, we have no doubt, speak for victory and triumphant achievement. 1944 may not achieve all that we expect of it. As its weeks pass there will be many disappointments and much suffering. Many homes will feel the heavy hand of sorrow, and the light of life will go out of many people's lives. Its name will be written in the great books of life as a year of misery and pain, ruin and destruction.

It is certain that 1944 will be a year of all this. But it is also bound to be a year of much else. No one would dare prophesy about it, but there are some things which time has already helped to make clear about 1944. This year will bring us to the peak of the struggle and to the gates of final victory. Whether we shall pass through those gates depends on many circumstances which no man can measure. But our well-founded belief is that 1944 will be a year of greatness for the human race and will in the course of human history be looked back on as one of mankind's finest periods.

Great Issues

There are great problems to decide in this year. Never has a year been so full of issues which decide between life and death, hope and cynicism, slavery and freedom. They are all here in this great year. The tale of their decision will be told for a thousand years, and men will point in their history books to 1944 as the year in which the great turning points were taken.

It must be a year of military, naval, and air force decision. The minds of the great captains are bent towards decision. The immense, encompassing plans of men and machines move on now to decision, and as relentlessly as any movement in history. This is no little year. Its bigness is already seen, and those who live through it will come out greater men. Problems of race and culture, faith and belief, and honour among the nations are now up for final decision. Mankind knows that the hour has come and that 1944 is a year of decision in human history.

1944 is also a year of deliverance. For four years some of the fairest of civilised lands have been under the heel of the tyrant. Pestilence and poison, the gangster and the persecutor, the conqueror and the tyrant have had a long day of dominance. Their end is drawing near and already there spreads over the stricken lands of Europe the sound of the bells of deliverance. Those bells are ringing, as it were, in underground

cellars and in secret places where men have never given up the hope they proclaim.

This is the year in which all free men are deliverers. Never before have so many millions of the world's common peoples been in the ranks of the deliverers.

From the beginning this gigantic struggle has been a struggle of deliverance. The fight has been against the evil things. From the beginning men have looked for the year of their release. In the black days when tyranny reigned supreme in Europe that year seemed a long way off. Now it has arrived. It is here. Its name is 1944.

Hopes Into Deeds

The year is also one of hope. It is clothed with hope as no single year since the first dawn of the Christian era ushered in the Hope of a New Day for all mankind. The Christmas bells have just rung out their message of hope for all the world. The year 1944 will translate those hopes into deeds. But hope will remain, for out of decision and deliverance must come hope for the future. 1944 will clear away much of the rank undergrowth which crowds the roads and the fields in the life of man; from this gigantic clearance there must begin a new building in hope.

It must be hope for the ordinary man who through grim circumstances and sadness has borne the perils of war. Every city in Europe and in this country has its full complement of such men. They think in terms of home, children, and some security for the future. Hope must begin there. 1944, too, must bring some hope for the larger life of every nation. Bitterness about frontiers, about race, about trade and possessions, must begin to give way to belief in practical brotherhood and love for all men. This new year cannot be expected to settle all these questions. But by our actions this year in every sphere of life we shall help to decide for many men whether their hopes for this year are to be disappointed, or whether there is some ultimate certainty of their beliefs coming to pass.

Immortal Years

These are the marks of 1944. Never has a year had so much expected of it. This is a date that will be famous for romance and achievement, and will rank high among the years of wonder. In the history books of the future men will turn to this date and assess the deeds and heroism which will mark its path. When historians come to count the tale of the years of war they may well bracket 1944 with 1940 as the immortal years when civilisation was saved and when the world was delivered from death and given a new hope.

Unlike other New Years which have come, 1944 offers no entirely unbeaten track. We know the hard, uphill track that we are bidden to take. There is no freedom from hardship and labour promised in 1944. The year of decision, deliverance, and hope will not be an easy year, and victory in it will be a long and tiring achievement.

But all that we know about 1944 makes what we do not know prodigious and unpredictable. We can only enter upon it in faith, each man to his task, knowing that the hour of decision, deliverance, and hope is now upon all mankind.

CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER
EVERY TUESDAY 3d
POSTAGE Inland 1d Abroad 3d
No 1293
FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE



Happiness and Good Will

A Ga woman arriving at Accra, capital of the Gold Coast, to take part in the harvest festival. She carries a metal bowl of fruits from the farm, a sign of happiness and good will.

The Good News Reaches Kenya

THE demand for the Scriptures in Africa is overwhelming and incessant, and quite impossible to meet in these days. We can understand, therefore, the delight of a missionary at Kabara, in Kenya, expressed in a letter to the British and Foreign Bible Society.

"The arrival of the New Testaments was really thrilling," he wrote. "We had been without any for months, and had been told that we should not get

any more until after the war, when two large cases, containing nearly 700 volumes, arrived from England and were dumped in our roadway by two vegetable factory lorries. I seized the first boy I could find and told him to get hold of a teacher; but he preferred to cry out the news in true African fashion: 'The New Testaments are here!'"

Good news indeed! The best news the world ever heard had arrived.

ROSES IN OREGON

EVERY year in Portland, Oregon, Attorney Dave Robinson gives two rose bushes to 1500 boys and girls.

It is a good many years now since Mr Robinson, working in a juvenile court, thought that some positive action was needed to discourage juvenile crime. He decided that if a child had something living and lovely to care for, that might help. He seems to have been right, and he has certainly helped to build up civic pride in Portland, which makes a great event of its annual Rose Festival.

Horticulturists have to be forward-looking people. So it is in keeping with their enthusiasm for flowers that the citizens of Portland are already planning for the post-war years. They are arranging for parks, play-

grounds, roads, and more public buildings to be made when the war ends, so that there will be no local unemployment. The name Oregon may have come from the Indian Oyer-un-gen, Place of Plenty, and this great Pacific coast state means to live up to the title.

F FOR PRINCESS

There has been much rejoicing in Egypt, for another Egyptian princess has been born, the third daughter of King Faruk and Queen Farida. In accordance with a custom instituted by her grandfather, the late King Fuad, she will bear a name beginning with F, Fadia, just as do her sisters, Princesses Ferial and Fawzieh, and their aunts Fewkiah, Fawzieh, Faiza, Faika, and Fathia.

Education's Great New Charter

WHEN, five months ago, we discussed in the C N the Government's White Paper on Education, we commended both its proposals and the idea of broadcasting them for public discussion before the drawing up of the promised Parliament Bill.

The idea, which is to be adopted for other reforms in this session, has justified itself, and in this matter, at any rate, has not meant undue delay. Indeed, largely thanks to the enthusiasm of Mr Butler, the President of the Board of Education, controversial points have been thrashed out—and in many cases settled—and proposals which did not appear sufficiently bold have been strengthened.

It is unfortunately impossible in our restricted pages to record more than a few of the salient features of this Bill of 111 clauses, seven schedules, and so on, and we advise interested readers to buy a copy at 1s 6d, together with the Government's explanatory memorandum at 3d.

A. National Responsibility

This Bill, when passed by Parliament, will replace all previous Education Acts for England and Wales. This is excellent, for in deliberating upon it we can visualise the system as a whole and see in a proper perspective those minor details which have caused so much controversy in the past.

In the first place our education from the nursery school to the adult school is to become a national responsibility, with added statutory powers for the President of the Board who, from being merely a superintendent, will become a Minister charged with the duties of promoting education and the progressive development of educational institutions, and securing the effective execution by local authorities of a national service, both varied and comprehensive, in all England and Wales.

For each of these two countries the Minister will appoint a Central Advisory Council, which will not only advise him on matters of theory and practice at his request (as a committee does at present), but will also submit proposals of their own.

The New Authorities

The State's fuller control is introduced in many ways; for instance, every boy and girl is to be registered, and in refusing to send his child to school a parent will be breaking a law on the Statute Book and not a local by-law as at present. Incidentally the penalties for this offence are increased, with imprisonment for a defiant parent. Local education authorities will, as now, be responsible for the provision of efficient education at all stages, but they will have wider opportunities than ever before. They will be the County and County Borough Councils, which may for reasons of economy and efficiency amalgamate. Also these authorities may, in consultation with the Minister, delegate their powers to district groups. This will decentralise the work of educationists and applies specially to towns of over 60,000 people.

As soon as the Act is passed the Minister will assume his duties and the local authorities must begin to prepare their plans to meet the various changes under the Act.

These changes are to come into force on April 1, 1945, and the most important is that the leaving age is then to be 15. The raising of this age to 16 thereafter is to be left to the decision of the Minister.

The present Elementary and Secondary Schools which are entirely under the local authorities are to be known as County Primary and County Secondary Schools. These secondary schools will be of a variety of types and be available without tuition fees to all children.

Under the Bill nursery schools and special schools for children not up to normal standards of health and fitness are to be provided. There is also planned a very considerable and much needed extension of technical and vocational training, and also of adult education. Local authorities, whose duty it will be to provide adequate facilities, must in this connection consult universities, educational associations, and so on, and then submit comprehensive schemes for the approval of the Minister.

All Schools Up to Standard

The schools hitherto known as non-provided and which are provided by denominational or other voluntary bodies are to be known as "auxiliary." In their planning the local education authorities will have to specify any alterations required to bring these schools up to the prescribed standard, consulting the managers or governors of such schools before submitting the plan to the Minister.

The governors of these schools will be able, to choose whether they continue to appoint their own teachers, and have the teachers salaries and all maintenance charges paid by the authority while they pay about half the cost of necessary external alterations to their buildings, or become "controlled" with all payments made by the authorities and the retention of a limited power in the appointment of teachers. The new financial benefits thus accruing to auxiliary schools should prove of special help to existing voluntary secondary schools, which under the Bill will receive the whole of their running expenses as of right. All auxiliary secondary schools will in future have to be conducted under articles approved by the Minister.

Worship Begins the Day

The 10,000 private schools will have to be registered and inspected, but the date for the coming into force of this part of the Bill will be fixed by an Order in Council dependent on how soon inspectors are available.

The clauses of the Bill dealing with religious instruction are, we think, such as all reasonable people should approve. We are confident, however, that all will acclaim the new emphasis given to religious instruction as an essential element of education, and to the clause that in all primary and secondary schools the school-day shall begin with a corporate act of worship.

HONOUR TO SCIENCE

THERE should surely be universal support for the claim made by Sir Henry Dale, in his presidential address to the Royal Society, for fitting recognition by the Government of the debt the nation owes to Science. It is proposed that the case would be met if the Treasury supplied the means for establishing a great centre in which the scientific societies could find suitable homes, with plenty of room for their libraries and offices and lecture rooms.

The president of the Chemical Society, Mr W. H. Mills, points out that as long ago as 1874 his institution was granted its present accommodation in Burlington House; it then had 800 Fellows; it now has over 5000. Its library, one of the most important in the world, now contains 45,000 volumes; of these only 19,000 can be housed in the main library, and all available storage space is filled.

The Society's meeting-room is quite inadequate, and when lectures are given before the Society by distinguished British and foreign chemists, accommodation has to be sought elsewhere. The administrative work has to be done in one small office. That is an example of how some of our most valuable scientific societies are hampered for lack of room.

The Royal Society itself is likely to find a commodious new London home in Spencer House, St James's, overlooking Green Park. This handsome 18th-century house, with its imposing colonnaded front, is a building befitting the dignity of the Royal Society, and their occupation of it will ensure its preservation for the nation, in accordance with the wish of Lord Spencer.

Five Points For the New League

The House of Commons was recently the scene of a very interesting visit from a Belgian statesman, M. Robert Gillon, the President of the Belgian Senate, who addressed a meeting of members of both Houses, convened by the British Group of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.

Discussing the future of the League of Nations or of any body substituted for it, he proposed that its members should:

- 1 Give sufficient guarantees to permit a complete and sincere renunciation of the use of force by individual nations in their foreign policy;
- 2 Agree to share, each according to his strength, in the maintenance of general security;
- 3 Solemnly declare that, once the peace treaty has been signed, they have no territorial claims against any other members of the League;
- 4 Accept a minimum of social legislation; and
- 5 Extend the principles of international solidarity with the field of economic relations.

B-P'S SISTER

B-P's sister, Miss Agnes Baden-Powell, is the pride of the Girl Guides. She was 85 just before Christmas and the Scouts gave a birthday party in her honour at Headquarters.

Little News Reels

NEW ZEALAND schoolchildren will leave school at 15 instead of 14 from February the First.

Canadian troops in England entertained over 6000 children at Christmas parties.

Over to You, published by the Stationery Office at 9d, is the story of Britain's air offensive as related in broadcasts by our airmen.

Mr Edward Maufe, architect of Guildford Cathedral, has been awarded the Royal Gold Medal.

450,000 French troops are now ready to go into action with the Allies.

350 British anti-aircraft gunners are coming back after a 13,600 mile tour of demonstration in the U.S.

THE Christmas gift from the King and Queen to our prisoners of war in Germany was Boswell's Life of Johnson in two volumes, each camp getting a set through the Red Cross organisation.

Mrs Redman, of Hebden Bridge, Yorkshire, who is 80 years and completely blind, has knitted over 200 woollen scarves for neighbours in the Forces.

During the last 12 months NAAFI have had the record turnover of £98,407,876.

Reports to the UNRRA Conference at Atlantic City revealed that Canada's gift to Greece of 15,000 tons of wheat a month is feeding 40 per cent of the people.

The Committee of National Liberation has granted French citizenship to all French-speaking Moslems.

Three streets in Teheran have been renamed after Churchill, Roosevelt, and Stalin.

To save electricity the annual custom of lighting the Christmas tree on the White House lawn at Washington was not observed.

Shakespeare's Henry the Fifth is being filmed in Ireland.

A message of greeting from the King was heard by over 600 wounded servicemen at a Christmas party in Buckingham Palace.

Oxford University has accepted an offer from the Nuffield Provincial Hospital Trust of £8000 a year for ten years to promote research into plastic surgery and the training of recruits to that special branch of the medical profession.

A new lifeboat engine which will continue working even when the boat is full of water is the invention of a Swedish designer.

Youth News Reel

ASSISTING in the X-ray department is one of the most interesting of the many useful jobs being done by Croydon Scouts in their local hospital, where the boys have given more than four years continuous service.

First aid to a lamb was an unusual good turn of three Scouts of the 5th Boston (Salem Baptist) Troop, who found the lamb with its foot cut by barbed wire and cleaned and bandaged the wound.

Dundee Royal Infirmary has recently benefited by the gift of £25 from the 12th Portobello (Royal High School) Edinburgh Scout Troop, the money having been raised by a Scout concert.

For the rescue of a boy from a swiftly-flowing river 14-year-old Owen Bartlett of the 2nd Elburton (Devon) Scout Troop has been awarded the Scout Gilt Cross for Gallantry.

The Boy Scouts and Girl Guides Associations consider that Scouts and Guides are particularly qualified to help families affected by the influenza epidemic, and suggest they should offer their services as shoppers and messengers.

THAT SECRET WEAPON

WITH so much talk of Hitler's "secret weapon" some people are wondering whether the weapon may not turn out to be—Field-Marshal Erwin Rommel.

This tough and doughty fighter has now, it is said, been appointed by his master Hitler to take charge of the entire defence system against the forthcoming Allied attacks in the West and South. He was reported just recently in Denmark and Norway, and his presence in the West coincided with the dismissal of certain Junker generals.

These chiefs of the Prussian military tradition may belittle Rommel, the Nazi-made soldier, but our own men certainly do not. A brilliant British war correspondent, in a book on the North Africa campaigns, speaks of the admiration and even of a kind of affection of the British troops for old Rommel. In their generous way, which British soldiers have always shown, and which we hope they will never lose, our boys pay ready tribute to a brave and capable foe, who has proved himself against them. Rommel is a brilliant general, but not the wonder-worker the German press made him out to be in days when he seemed to be having things all his own way in the desert.

All kinds of flattering things

were said about him, fantastic estimates were made of what he could and would do to our armies, and the German comic papers paid their own peculiar homage to his fame. In a Berlin comic paper, for instance, there was a drawing of a battered-looking complainant in an assault case, who was asked by the magistrate whether the defendant struck him on the occasion in question. "Struck me?" cried the complainant. "Why, he absolutely Rommeled me."

Rommel himself, it would appear, swallowed this flattery in great gulps. He apparently believed himself to be the world's greatest general, not realising that from the British Isles had come two men, a very quiet man named Alexander, and a man named Montgomery not quite so quiet, who had learned many hard lessons, and were ready to use them against him.

Over-confidence, in fact, was Rommel's chief fault. At the same time, he set a notable example by seeing things for himself after his careful battle plans had been put into action. He was always right in the forefront of the fighting. Furthermore he seems to have treated well those whom he took prisoner.

Rommel, anti-invasion chief number one, is a foe to be respected.

The Children's Newspaper, January 1, 1944

AN UNMILITARY OPERATION

Just before Christmas a C.N. reader stopped to watch a member of a tank corps busy with hammer and nails. He had many bits of wood on the end of a Sherman tank, the huge iron monster serving as a kind of bench. "A military operation?" our friend playfully asked.

The man in khaki turned, grinned, and said: "Not likely!" "A toy?" he was asked.

He nodded. "My little laddie," he explained, "wants a wooden engine, and as I've been lucky enough to pick up a few bits I'm making him an engine, and I'll be taking it home when I go on leave next week-end. You can't let the war interfere with Christmas, you know!"

BIRD-CATCHING TREE

Some mysterious person every year at the flowering season breaks off the branches of the bird-catching tree at Pukekura Park in New Plymouth, New Zealand, so that it cannot trap birds and insects. It is believed to be the act of a bird-lover.

The flowers of this tree exude a sticky glutinous substance and sometimes small birds become entangled and cannot extricate themselves. Even the native owl has been caught, but mostly only small birds are trapped.

CONTROLLING THE TRAINS

At the height of the blitz an L.M.S. Train Control Office in a northern city was totally destroyed and traffic direction had to be carried on in an emergency office. But now a new and better control office has replaced the old, and it is perhaps the finest and busiest in the world.

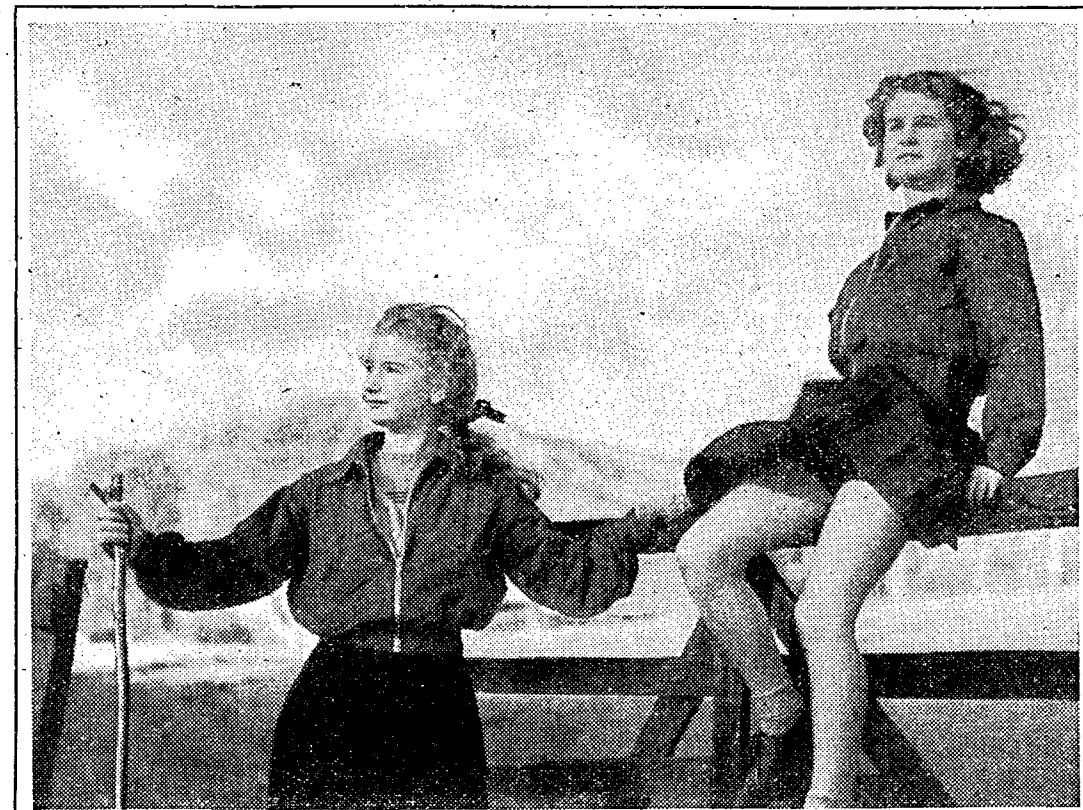
Certainly the intensity and volume of traffic controlled through this new L.M.S. Control Office is unique in Britain, and it has direct and immediate communication with 900 stations, signal boxes, and so on. To each of its 36 desks is fixed a telephonic keyboard, and above each keyboard is a geographical trains board giving each operator a bird's eye view of his section of the line. Lighting is provided by tubular, fluorescent lamps which are practically shadowless, and a huge painted map of the portion of the country controlled is fixed to the walls.

AN OLD MILL PASSES

The old windmill at Boughton, near Canterbury, is being demolished after standing for many years, a landmark for miles around the city. It has not been used for milling for some years, and it was damaged by bomb blast in 1940.

The Mud of Other Days

THE terrible mud through which our Fifth and Eighth Armies have been toiling in Italy has taken them by surprise. It has been a surprise also to those of us who saw Italy only from railways and good motoring roads. But England also has its mud, and in Stuart times even our highways were not a great deal better than the ways over which our armies have been painfully struggling. A family on its travels went by coach, several coaches to a cavalcade if the family was large and wealthy. Six horses drew each carriage, attended by a retinue of mounted menservants, and it



YOUTH LOOKS FORWARD

Making the Most of Our Timber

BEFORE the war Britain relied largely on the Scandinavian countries for its wood, but now that transportation of timber from these countries is impossible we must use our own stocks—small ones, compared with those of Norway and Sweden.

The result is that the timber we have must give more service, and to that end the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research, at the Forest Products Research Laboratory, Princes Risborough, has made great strides since the beginning of the war.

The aspects of Forest Products

BUILDING TO FIT THE TREES

Instead of cutting down the trees to make way for the building, the Allied Works Council, which is building Queensland's largest hospital for the American Forces in Australia, is shaping it, where necessary, to "fit" the trees.

Roof eaves which would strike tree trunks are being cut away to guarantee that all buildings get the benefit of all available shade. In other parts, wards and buildings have been set up in the full shade of the trees.

Research are many, and the laboratory has applied itself successfully to them. One of its most important investigations has been into the possibility of protecting timber against incendiary bombs.

Even in peacetime the amount of timber needed for pit-props and railway sleepers is enormous, but war has found new uses for wood, and its preservation is vitally important. The research laboratory has determined to extend the life of timber for various purposes by the use of preservatives and fireproof chemicals. The problem of rot is also the subject

of experiments; and others on the preservation of wood from the powder-post beetle and death-watch beetle have been very successful. But investigations into the common furniture and "pin-hole" beetles are not yet complete. Fungus is a third cause of decay in wood, and this problem is also receiving attention.

These are only a few of the branches of research tackled by the laboratory at Princes Risborough, but the need for them will last far beyond the period of the war, for the world's timber supplies are by no means inexhaustible.

The Lady Who Sold the Time

When we want to be sure that our clocks and watches are right we can always dial TIM, or check them on the radio by Big Ben and the "pips."

The death, at the age of 89, of Miss Elizabeth Ruth Belville, of Wallington in Surrey, reminds us of days when watches were not so easily checked and corrected. For more than half a century Miss Belville took the correct Greenwich time to a large number of business houses in London, as her father and mother had done before her. It was her profession, and the watch she used was no less reliable than Big Ben himself. She would go to Greenwich three times a week to check her timekeeper.

This watch had a name. It was called "Arnold," because it was made by A. J. Arnold, the Royal Watchmaker who invented the compensation-balance. He made it for the Duke of Sussex, uncle of Queen Victoria, and it told the time to within a tenth of a second. When Miss Belville's father acquired the watch in 1836 it was in perfect condition, and has remained so ever since.

Look & Listen Before You Cross the Road

WHILE THE GENERALS WAITED

During her visit to Australia Mrs Roosevelt visited the big American Hospital in Melbourne. In one of the wards a private who had handed her a long letter to read gave anxious signs of wishing to talk with her alone. Mrs Roosevelt gave him his wish, speaking with the young soldier for a few minutes while her escort of distinguished officers, including three generals, waited outside the ward.

Once again had Mrs Roosevelt shown "the homely sympathy that heeds the common life."

The Burglar Who Made Good

IN a debate in Parliament on the Bill dealing with the employment of the disabled, a case was mentioned of an ex-burglar who was restored to usefulness by a well-known surgeon.

The man had been taken to hospital with a broken back and both legs seriously injured. He was hardly expected to live, but the surgeon put him in plaster and restored him to health. Asked his profession he declared himself a burglar, but added, "if I had a tanner I could go into real business." The surgeon handed him ten £1 notes.

Months passed, and the sur-

IN GRATITUDE FOR A MIRACLE

THREE New Zealand soldiers were sheltering under a tree in Crete from German Stukas and paratroops with which the air was thronged. It was one of those situations from which they could only be extricated by some miracle, and the end seemed near.

"Well, if we ever get out of this lot I'll give a fiver to a good cause," said one of them.

That was all long ago, but the miracle happened. They escaped.

Now, months afterwards, a lady in Auckland has received £5 with a request that it should be given, at her own discretion, to a worthy cause. The debt of honour has been paid.

JOYFUL TOYS

An admiral making toys for children, and, together with other patients, being restored to health by the hobby, is reported from a naval hospital in the East of Scotland. The toys include dolls, leather elephants, rabbits, teddy-bears, and model horses. The patients also are making scarves, rugs, and woven belts.

Many of the finished articles would realise high prices in the open market, but they are sold at an average price of 3s 6d, the cost of the materials used.

What a joyful beginning to the life of a toy—to help sick men along the road to health!

THE MESSAGE IN THE CLOUDS

Some of our men who are prisoners of war have been able to send home Christmas cards. One of these, the official card of Offlag VII B, shows, in the form of a rather old-style engraving, the lay-out of the camp, rather prettily situated near the Bavarian town of Eichstatt.

Above the scene of huts and heath and trees, a peculiar cloud-effect has been drawn; and when the picture is turned upside-down the clouds display the beloved outlines of Great Britain! That is the real picture our men wish to send home, the picture of the Motherland which is always in their hearts.

A SWEET CROP

Britain's sugar-beet crop in 1943 was the best ever known. It has been produced on more than 40,000 acres of the finest land in the country, and during a period of 110 days extending into the New Year, an average of more than 37,000 tons of beet daily is being carried by rail, road, and barge to the 18 factories of the British Sugar Corporation.

The humble beet has certainly kept our sugar-bowls well-filled during the war.

geon heard nothing of the discharged man. Then one Monday morning a dirty £1 note was delivered at the surgeon's rooms without a covering letter. The following Monday another £1 note arrived; a week later £8.

Eighteen months later a limousine with a uniformed chauffeur drew into Harley Street, and out stepped the ex-burglar, bearing the marks of prosperity in clothes and bearing. He had come to say "Thank you" to his good friend the surgeon.

The moral of the story is that many, who do not seem worthy can be reclaimed to decent lives.

The EDITOR'S TABLE

Homes Without Water

THE majority of our people, living as they do in towns, do not realise how much needs to be done to supply water to rural homes.

Lord Bingley writes from Yorkshire to point out how in thousands of cottage homes the housewife, in all weathers, has to paddle to a well before she can get water either for cooking or for a bath. On many farms the shortage of water makes the production of clean milk difficult or impossible.

It is all very well to discuss the lesser amenities of cottage building, but the chief additions to comfort that many of our rural workers need are more water and better light.

WINGED WORDS

OVER a million airgraphs posted between November 27 and December 2 were lost on the way to our forces overseas. But they should all be in the soldiers' hands in good time, for the originals have all been photographed again and the duplicates dispatched.

Nothing shall prevent these winged words warming the hearts of our fighting men—thus does Science serve Sentiment.

Less Tobacco Sold

WHILE the consumption of cigarettes since the last Budget has been fairly constant, the sale of pipe tobacco has sharply dropped. There is more than one reason for this. The profit on pipe tobacco, for instance, is less than that on cigarettes, so that many retailers consider the margin inadequate and this leads to the stocking of cigarettes at the expense of pipe tobacco.

There is also a great shortage of pipes and this affects tobacco sales; it also means that young recruits to smoking automatically join the vast army of cigarette consumers, and this seems a pity, for pipe-smoking is probably less harmful.

PAYING TRIBUTE

A big basket of apples perched invitingly by a farmyard gate. It bore the message: "For Troops only. Please help yourselves."

The farmer was paying tribute . . .

An army lorry drawn up outside a cottage door. Two soldiers were inside. The cottage door opened slowly, and a frail old lady, silvery locked and wizened, appeared with cups of coffee, piping hot, and "something to go with it." The soldiers were ever so grateful, for the day was bitterly cold.

The little old lady was paying tribute . . .

The fishing-boats came in, and big burly fishermen unloaded their catches. From every catch they took fish and dropped it into a bin. They called it the "pilots' bin." The bin was

full when brave "pilots of the air" came to collect.

The fishermen were paying tribute . . .

Scores of other warmhearted people all over the country are paying similar tribute, too! So much do they owe to the men in uniform that they gladly respond to the impulse to give those little extras that mean such a lot to our fighting men.

In this New Year great calls will be made on the men who are fighting our battles at sea, on land, and in the air. Let us pay tribute to them by backing them up in our everyday lives—by putting our best efforts into our work at home, at school, in office, field, or factory.

For the responsibility of bringing the war to a victorious conclusion belongs to each and every one of us.

Junior Traffic Control

THOUGH road deaths are fewer, they are still so numerous that we sometimes wonder whether people in this country ever consider their extent and significance.

There has been well-planned publicity on the subject for some years now, by the Safety First Association and other bodies, but excellent as it is it is not enough. We need a good deal more publicity, in the news-

papers, in the picture theatres, on the air, on the platform.

Children themselves, who form so high a proportion of the tragic victims, are doing excellent work in fighting this evil; and we warmly commend the boys and girls of four Buckinghamshire schools who are forming special patrols to help other children across roads and warn boys and girls who cycle without proper care. This is fine work.

The Deserted Village

AN ancient church in south-west England has had its last service for duration of the war, for the village is in the area evacuated so that it may be a training ground for American troops.

And in the porch is this message, signed by the bishop of the diocese:

From This Parish to Our United States Allies

This church has stood for several hundred years. Around it has grown a community which has lived in these houses and tilled these fields ever since there was a church. This church, this churchyard in which their loved ones lie at rest; these homes; these fields, are as dear to those who have left them as are the homes and graves and fields which you, our Allies, have left behind you.

They hope to return one day as you hope to return to yours, to find them waiting to welcome them home.

They entrust them to your care meanwhile, and pray that God's blessing may rest upon us all.

Our heartfelt good wishes go to all those Americans thousands of miles from home, and to these English villagers who temporarily have had to leave their gardens, their fields, their church, their cottages "Where humble happiness endeared each scene." May all their returnings be not long delayed.

JUST AN IDEA

Every child comes into the world with the message that God does not yet despair of man.

The Crown of It All

IN winding up the first War Debate in the new session Mr Anthony Eden quoted the following lines from Francis Quarles, a poet-philosopher who died 300 years ago:

*My soul, sit thou a silent looker on:
Judge not the play until the play is done;*

*Her plot has many changes;
every day*

Speaks a new scene; the last act crowns the play.

Mr Eden was referring to the Italian campaign, but these lines apply to the whole war.

TRUST THYSELF

Trust thyself; every heart vibrates to that iron string. Emerson

Under the Editor's Table

AN MP says he is not easily swept off his feet. Perhaps his wife has a vacuum cleaner.

SHOULD all girls be taught to cook? A burning question.

AN American would like to see London a city of skyscrapers. A tall order.

WE should smile at people in the street, says a writer. Some make you want to laugh.

Peter Puck Wants to Know



If night duty is going to sleep

WHEREVER the British Army goes it makes roads. The enemy makes tracks for home.

CHILDREN should be taught to give. Not trouble.

A LAND girl says you never know how a bull will greet you. It is usually a toss-up.

FAT children are often spoiled. Made much of.

OUT of print—the domestic servant.



Soldier's Friend

When Canadian troops arrived somewhere in Sicily they found this elderly lady, a former resident of Toronto, eager to help with their darning and patching.

GUARDIAN OF THE FLOCK

SHEEP-DOGS do more for their flocks than their public trials reveal to lay watchers. The way in which they find their sheep in strange company, bring them together, guide them past obstacles, and fold them in the difficult position prescribed by the judges is a feat that has to be seen to be believed. But there is something else in the sheep-dog's unwritten code of duties.

Dogs for the guarding of flocks and herds were domesticated when our land teemed with wolves and other savage animals. Today, tens of thousands of years later, that instinct of guardianship still persists unabated. The other day a flock of thirty or forty sheep was being transferred from one suburban pasture to another, tended by a shepherd and his collie dog.

Suddenly, with the collie on the far side of the road marshalling stragglers, out from a garden sprang an aggressive Labrador

retriever, a dog weighing over half a hundredweight. The sheep had awakened his primitive instincts, and he rushed at them open-mouthed. The shepherd uttered no word, the collie made no sound, but, swift as an arrow, and taking his corners as cleanly as a speed-track motor-cyclist, the sheep-dog cut round the back of the flock and hurled himself at the assailant.

With a succession of yelps like those of a scared puppy, the retriever vanished from the scene, bolted into one garden, then, straight through a privet hedge, into the garden of his owner. The collie, a smaller dog, resumed its duties instantly; the flock went its way, and all was peace.

One watcher realised that he had witnessed a conflict such as must have had a thousand predecessors when wolves were the enemies against which sheep-dogs had to ward.

A Party Down Bermondsey Way

NOTHING has touched our hearts more towards our American visitors in uniform than what they have done for British children. They have revealed that same generous and tender-hearted spirit which moved so many Americans to help us before they came into the war.

Now we hear that a group of WACS, the USA's equivalent of our own ATS, have adopted the seven-year-old daughter of a Bermondsey gunner who has been missing since last April, making a formal "ceremony" of the adoption at a Christmas party given by them to Bermondsey boys and girls.

These parties, not only at Christmas and Thanksgiving, but at any old time—for what American soldier or WAC needs an excuse of any special date to

give pleasure to children?—have become familiar to us. We do not always realise that they are not merely the fruit of natural kindness, but a very special tribute of admiration for our steadfastness in the days when the whole world thought we were beaten.

The children played their part in that notable time. "Camden Town Kids Don't Cry" was the legend set by that distinguished painter Mr C. R. W. Nevinson below one of his finest war pictures, that of a little girl brought as a casualty into the hospital where he was working as a stretcher-bearer during the blitz. Americans know that picture of his, and now they are coming to know Bermondsey, whose mayor of the blitz period paid for his never-failing bravery with his life.

BRITAIN NEED NOT BE POOR

THE main subject of political interest during the last weeks of 1943 was the striking address, *Thoughts on the New World*, delivered by General Smuts, on November 25, to a private meeting of members of the United Kingdom Branch of the Empire Parliamentary Association.

This thought-provoking speech at once created much discussion among its hearers but did not appear in print until December 3, and then only in part in most newspapers. The address has since been published by *The Times* as a pamphlet, which can be bought at any bookstall for 2d. It ranges over the world as it will appear when victory has been won by the Allied Nations, and is admittedly a personal expression of the General's present views, with many a highly controversial subject touched upon.

One of the most striking utterances of what its author called "explosive stuff" was his reference to the future position of Great Britain. Leading up to a statement concerning Great Britain's purely European position, he said: "You will have the country of Great Britain with a glory and an honour and a prestige such as perhaps no nation has ever enjoyed in history—but from a material, economic point of view she will be a poor country. She has put her all. This country has held nothing back. There is nothing left in the till. She has put her body and soul and everything into it to win the battle of mankind. She will have won it, but she will come out of it poor in substance."

These are very serious words, and we shall do well to face them. Let us ask ourselves, *Must the future of Britain be spent in poverty?*

Our Greatest Asset

We can say at once, knowing how British wealth has been built, that in our coalfields we still possess the means to restore what has been lost—to create a greater Britain at the gates of Europe and to sustain a greater population possessing splendid industries having their base in applied science and applied arts.

Britain's greatest asset, by the use of which she became and for long remained the chief workshop of the world, remains in being, and can be used as never before to increase human wealth and happiness. That statement is surely a sufficient answer to General Smuts's fear that Britain will come out of the war poor in substance. So far from there being "nothing left in the till," the coal remains, a magnet for industry, inviting us to make the most of it. It can be transformed into electric power, into

giant furnaces, into the sure foundation of industries, the product of which can be translated into fine cities, comfortable homes, and into a stream of exports to pour into the world in exchange for foods and materials which we lack.

That is not a story of poverty, but a narrative of serious facts, which wait for a skilled population to translate into a splendid stream of wealth. The war has shown that the energy, enterprise, and inventive faculties of our people can be translated into material accomplishments informed by high courage and unalterable determination. If we accepted General Smuts's words we should be plunged into gloom and pessimism for which there is no foundation.

When We are at Our Best

It must be granted, however, that we can become materially poor if we do not apply to peace the courage and determination which have saved us in the war. It is true that we have to face a future full of difficulties, but those difficulties will be no greater than those we have already surmounted, and the British character is at its best in such circumstances. Our demobilised men and women, and the children who are now growing up to aid them, freed from the special cares of war and perhaps slowly, but certainly and surely, regaining the freedoms of peace must realise by what means Britain grew in wealth in the Coal Era and what they must do to improve upon the work of their ancestors.

The possession of coal means the possession of Power. We must regard this Power as the most precious of material gifts. A nation which owns it has the key to wealth, the key to multiply the exertions of its people and to translate soil and rock and ore and organic materials into a bewildering variety of products. Used by known scientific means, we can cause it to preserve life and to aid every human effort. We can exchange its products to add to the resources of our Island the resources of all the world. In the past this has been done well enough to make Britain as a whole materially wealthy, but with its wealth poorly distributed. In the future we can use it to build again a wealth that will enrich not only this land of ours but all with whom we trade.

The Faithful Fountain Pen

A WRITER in a daily newspaper states that one of the biggest Christmas queues he saw was formed by people of many types waiting to get their fountain pens "serviced" and mended. This is a sign of the times, one which historians with an eye for detail will record.

For detail is the real stuff of history. Dates of kings and queens, never much in favour with children, have long since been out of fashion with their teachers. They tell us nothing of the daily life of the period, and it is the ordering of their

own lives, by ordinary folk, which have built up immortal traditions of quiet and "unofficial" self-government. The Paston Letters tell us real history, and so does Pepys' Diary, or Boswell's *Life of Johnson*. The little things of which these books speak are as human and significant as the fountain-pen queues of the fifth year of war.

A faithful servant is the fountain pen. But its faithfulness, like that of other servants, is appreciated, all too often, only when a great crisis makes one see the value of the humblest service.

CARRY ON

NEW YEAR

NEW Year—now on the wing
From yonder distant Sphere,
What, Oh! what will you bring
When duly you appear?

Tell me, I would know this,
What will you be giving,
Shall I deep sorrow miss?
Shall I joy in living?

My child—how should I tell
What the year will unfold:
But you shall know full well
Its blessing manifold.

If sin comes with its stain
Fight it, as for your life,
Keep that which you may gain—
The peace born out of Strife.

If trials great or small
You meet upon the way,
Sufficient grace for all
Is promised for each day.

So you must search—to find,
In sorrow's darkest hour,
The Love triumphant, kind,
God's all-sufficient power.

There will be joy and peace,
Friends to bring happiness;
Love, which shall never cease,
Service—your life to bless.

Ellen Hainsworth

What Really Matters

LEARN to love all things that are truly beautiful, to prize things that are truly valuable, and scorn the empty show which flaunts itself so much before the world and has nothing either lovely, or noble, or worthy behind it. You may wear a priceless gem with great simplicity, and may dangle a worthless bauble with great vulgarity. Only the spirit in which you bear yourself, the feeling that lies behind your conduct, matters.

Arthur Mee

If All the World Were Made For Me

UNTHINKING, idle, wild, and young,
I laughed, and danced, and talked, and sung:
And, proud of health, of freedom vain,
Dreamed not of sorrow, care, or pain:
Concluding, in those hours of glee,
That all the world was made for me.

But when the hour of trial came,
When sickness shook this trembling frame,
When folly's gay pursuits were o'er,
And I could sing and dance no more,
It then occurred, how sad twould be
Were this world only made for me.

A Daughter of George the Third

The Truth is Plain

CERTAIN it is that all that truth which God hath made necessary, He hath also made legible and plain, and if we will open our eyes we shall see the sun.

Jeremy Taylor

A Religion to Live By

SUCH is the intrinsic excellence of Christianity that it is adaptable to the wants of all, and it provides for all, not only by its precepts and by its doctrines, but also by its evidence.

The poor man may know nothing of history, or science, or philosophy; he may have read scarcely any book but the Bible; he may be totally unable to vanquish the sceptic in the arena of public debate; but he is, nevertheless, surrounded by a panoply which the shafts of infidelity can never pierce.

You may go home to the poor cottager, whose heart is deeply imbued with the spirit of vital Christianity, you may see him gather his little family around him. He expounds to them the

wholesome doctrines and principles of the Bible, and, if they want to know the evidence upon which he rests his faith of the divine origin of his religion, he can tell them upon reading the Book which teaches Christianity he finds not only a perfectly true description of his own natural character, but in the provisions of this religion a perfect adaptation to all his needs.

It is a religion by which to live, a religion by which to die; a religion which cheers in darkness, relieves in perplexity, supports in adversity, keeps steadfast in prosperity, and guides the inquirer to that blessed land where "the wicked cease from troubling, and the weary are at rest."

Edward Winthrop

THE CLEFT WITHIN THE ROCK

THE warmth and scent which gentle breezes bring,
The shelter where the wind not loudly blows,
May fill the mind with undisturbed repose:
We do not wish for winter in the spring.
Yet change will come on some mysterious wing;
Unsought, unwelcomed, trouble's sudden throes,
When cutting wind will bring the northern snows,

And all fair summer's birds will cease to sing.
Ah! Blessed is the lot of those rare souls
Who, ere the winds of bleak adversity
Their spirits overtake, have found the cleft
Within the Rock o'er which no billow rolls.
The eyes of faith the face of Jesus see,
And of protecting love are not bereft.

T. Pittaway

JANUARY 1

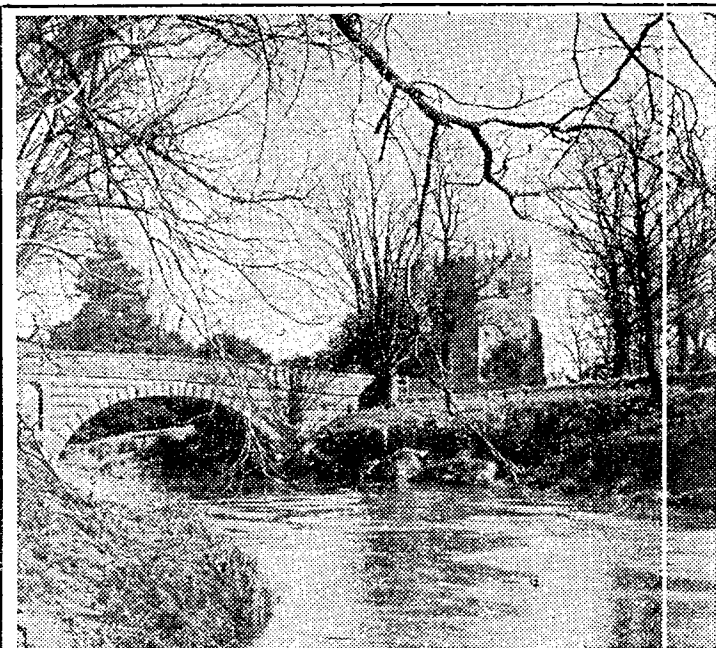
NO one ever regarded the First of January with indifference. It is that from which all date their time, and count upon what is left. It is the nativity of our common Adam.

Of all sound of all bells—(bells, the music highest bordering upon heaven)—most solemn and touching is the peal which rings out the Old Year. I never hear it without a gathering-up of my mind to a concentration of all the images that have been diffused over the past twelve-month—all I have done or suffered, performed or neglected, in that regretted time.

Charles Lamb

The Wisely-Spent Day

TO awaken each morning with a smile brightening my face; to greet the day with reverence for the opportunities it contains; to approach my work with a clean mind; to hold ever before me, even in the doing of little things, the Ultimate Purpose toward which I am working; to meet men and women with laughter on my lips and love in my heart; to be gentle, kind, and courteous through all the hours; to approach the night with weariness that ever woos sleep and the joy that comes from work well done—this is how I desire to waste wisely my days. Thomas Dekker



THIS ENGLAND

Winter quietude by the river at St Michael-on-Wyre, Lancashire

THANK YOU, SWITZERLAND!

WHENEVER a letter goes to a prisoner of war, or an inquiry is made about a relation in Europe, or a parcel is sent to a prisoner, someone in Switzerland has to see to it.

More than 6000 people in Switzerland are giving their full time to the International Red Cross, which handles all this work. In Geneva the Genevese themselves are tackling the huge amount of work involved in censoring carloads of correspondence, keeping records of prisoners and of those reported missing, and doing all that belongs to such an activity. Because Geneva alone cannot cope with the task, branches of the International Red Cross have been established in other Swiss cities. Of the 6000 persons engaged in this work, about 85 per cent are volunteer workers, and most of the remaining 15 per cent are drawing monthly salaries below £10.

There was a time when the International Red Cross had the gloomy prospect that the organisation would run out of money within two months if no fresh funds could be raised. The Swiss federal government came to the rescue with a contribution of 3 million francs, and soon a collection campaign throughout Switzerland yielded almost 2 million francs more. Contributions from foreign governments and foreign Red Cross societies were also increased.

Although other countries are contributing, the activity of the International Red Cross is mainly a Swiss undertaking for the benefit of other peoples. At the same time, Switzerland also renders an important service in

diplomatic representation of the interests of some of the belligerent nations. Today the interests of 27 countries are thus watched, and a staff of 100 persons in Berne and about 800 in Swiss legations and consulates abroad are occupied solely with these duties.

Switzerland is providing the world with a great clearing-house. Without her services human misery and anxiety in the world would be much greater. She serves all the belligerent countries alike and so keeps her place as one of the great centres of the world's life.

GIANT PLANE'S GREAT SUCCESS

Colonel Frank Knox, the Navy Secretary of the U S has reported the great success of the new 70-ton flying-boat Mars. It has made a round trip of 8972 miles in 55½ hours flying time, the average speed being 161 m.p.h.

On the outward trip from the Patuxent River near Washington Mars flew non-stop to Natal in Brazil, 4375 miles, with 13,000 lbs of Christmas mail; while on the return journey various calls were made, a cargo of 35,000 lbs being carried between Belem in Brazil and Port of Spain, Trinidad.

These figures are a great promise for the future of air transport.

Coal Under the Sea

IN recent months the United Steel Companies of the Main Band seam under the Solway have discovered vast supplies of coal under the sea. It is actually believed that there is enough coal in this one seam to allow miners to bring two million tons a year to the surface for at least 500 years.

This is heartening news, for it is well known that for many years there has been anxiety in the north-west of England about the future of the coal industry there. This was especially so in the Cumberland coalfield, where the industry has been slowly dying out during the last thirty years. Seams were being worked out and pits were being closed. The mining population was faced with the possibility of gradual extinction, it seemed; and this would mean also the passing away of many other industries dependent upon an immediate supply of coal.

With the discovery of these new seams, however, these dangers are receding, and the great coal-mining and iron and steel industries in this district, so flourishing at present because of the demands of the war, are not likely to pass from this district when it ends.

Indeed, the coming of peace should bring these industries a new impetus, and with it work for all.

TRIUMPHANT BRITISH GLASS

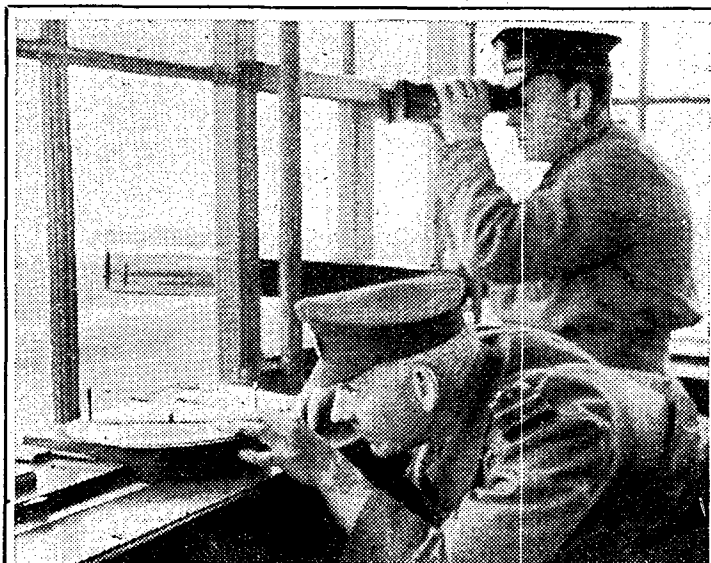
The R.A.F. are as proud of their cameras as the rest of us are proud of the R.A.F. Millions of people daily see the results obtained as newspapers and films reproduce what the cameras reveal of combats at sea, on land, and in the air, and the effect of our bombing of enemy strongholds lying miles below the lenses.

Our aerial photographers describe their apparatus as unexcelled throughout the world. The quality of the work, they say, establishes the quality of the British lenses used. So, too, they add, does the fact that of all the lenses used for film work at Hollywood, 80 per cent are British.

This will be startling as well as gratifying to veterans who fought in the early days of the 1914-18 war, when the sudden cutting off of supplies of German glass left us seriously handicapped. The defect was remedied by the opening in 1915 at Sheffield University of a department of glass technology, followed, two years later, by the creation of a national research association devoted solely to the production of glass of the first quality for scientific purposes.

But the English should know something about glass-making. Our Saxon ancestors made it in the primeval forests of Surrey and Sussex, and six centuries ago Chiddingfold in Surrey produced the glass that glazed the windows of St Stephen's Chapel at Westminster.

But for modern glass of unsurpassed quality we owe thanks to the scientists who began their work during the last war.



Constant Vigil

Men of the Coastguard Patrol taking a bearing on an unidentified aircraft, one of their many duties in guarding our coasts.

The Jewish Festival of Lights

WHILE Christians have been concerned with Christmas Jews have been celebrating their mid-winter festival.

It is known as Chanukkah, and it lasts for eight days, beginning this winter on the evening of December 21, much nearer Christmas Eve than usual. Owing to the Jewish calendar the dates of all their feasts and fasts vary from year to year.

Chanukkah is the Feast of Lights, or Dedication. It commemorates the war of liberation conducted by Judas Maccabaeus in the five years from 166 B.C. when he and his faithful few, after long and heart-breaking defeats, finally freed Jerusalem from the Syrian yoke, purified the Temple, and reinaugurated the holy service. A miracle marked their triumph, for all the holy vessels had been desecrated and destroyed, and there was only one jar of sacred oil to be found. But through Divine intervention it lasted for their purpose.

This is the incident which is made the central part of one of

the most charming celebrations in the Jewish religion. In every pious Jewish household there is a candlestick with eight branches in a row and one in front. On the first evening of Chanukkah the children are called to hear the blessing, and the youngest child lights the "pilot-candle" and with it kindles the first in the row. Then a hymn is sung, to a fine, rousing tune, centuries old; it is the hymn called "Mooz Tzur Yeshuosi," glorifying the Lord of Deliverance:

*Fortress, our salvation's Rock,
It is meet to praise Thee—*

Chanukkah is celebrated, with presents and songs and fun, very much like Christmas, but it lasts longer, for it is an eight-day feast in token of the period which the one jar of oil lasted, until the Temple affairs could be put in order again. On the second day two candles are lighted, three on the third, and so on until the last day is reached. The ceremony is very short, and the boys and girls love it just as much at its end as at its beginning.

PENICILLIN IN PROOF

THE remarkable drug Penicillin, based on mould, is rapidly proving its value, and its discoverer, Dr Alexander Fleming, of London University, has received the award of the American Pharmaceutical Manufacturers Association for contributing most to the advancement of medicine in 1943.

Tests have been made in many places with very successful results. In North Africa and Sicily splendid results have been obtained; with the staying of infection by Penicillin wounded men leave hospital three to six weeks sooner than before. Out of 171 cases, 164 were successfully treated. It is possible now to stitch badly infected wounds—an unheard-of procedure before Penicillin—and then to run the drug into the wound.

In one experiment, Professor Florey, of Oxford, who has also received an award, inoculated a number of mice with germs which would certainly kill them

if treatment were not successful. The mice were divided into two groups, only one group being treated with Penicillin. It was found that in the morning the untreated mice were dead while all treated with Penicillin were alive.

It is reported that organisms sensitive to the drug are those which cause pneumonia, anthrax, tetanus, diphtheria, gangrene, and meningitis. Penicillin is no use in cholera, plague, and tuberculosis.

Dr Fleming himself has put it that "my baby Penicillin is growing up with phenomenal rapidity." He gratefully thanks the many workers who have helped with experiments and especially mentions Professor Florey.

Dr Fleming is hopeful that other diseases will be conquered. The latest report is that the drug is in mass-production in America and that adequate supplies will soon be available.

BEDTIME CORNER

What Will the New Year Bring?

NEW YEAR coming on apace,
What have you to give me?
Bring you scathe or bring you grace,
Face me with an honest face,
You shall not deceive me:
Be it good or ill, be it what you will,
It needs must help me on my road,
My rugged way to Heaven,
please God.

THE CUNNING WOLF

A MOTHER goat who was going out in search of food shut up her young kid at home, and warned him not to open the door to anyone till she came back.

A wolf was hiding behind a bush close by, and he heard what she said. As soon as she had gone he came and knocked at the door, and then, imitating the voice of the goat, called to the kid to open the door.

But the kid was looking through the keyhole, and could see that it was not his mother; so he called out to the wolf to go away, saying that, however he might imitate the goat's voice, he looked far too much like a wolf to be trusted.

Never trust people who pretend to be different from what they really are.

Riddle

WHEN did the lamp-stand?
When it heard the gas-pipe

PRAYER

LORD Jesus, we beseech Thee,
bless us all this day and throughout the year to come.
Help us to live not for ourselves but for others, bearing one another's burdens and loving and caring for those less fortunate than ourselves.
Give us humility and peace of mind, O Lord, and grant us grace to serve Thee always with sincerity and gratefulness of heart. Amen.



Healing the Wounds of a World at War

IN the fifth year of war there are many wounds all over the world; and it is one of the purposes of the Friends' Ambulance Unit to help to heal them. The Unit has just issued a report of the work of its 800 members scattered all over the world.

While the armies advanced victoriously across North Africa the ambulance men followed after. "Advancing from El Agheila," the report says, "the hospital was continuously busy. Three days after the fall of Tunis the Unit became a general hospital in a Tunis technical school. During the Mareth battle it became a staging-point, dealing with as many as 1400 casualties in a single day; treating the most urgent cases, passing the others back from the line. Officially intended for 100 patients, expanding to 250 beds in emergency, the hospital once accommodated 700 patients on a single night. During the Akarit battle it moved on again and became a casualty clearing station just behind the battle front. With the first battle for Tunisia the Unit settled down in Sousse, before returning to Cairo, 2000 miles away."

In the Middle East the Unit has helped with the supply of blood and other fluids for field units; the day-to-day bleeding of donors; the bottling, storing, and testing of blood; the blood-grouping of army units; the manufacture of blood serum and plasma, and the making of essential apparatus. The Friends have also helped with research connected with the preservation and sterility of these fluids.

During the past year Unit men have worked with two field Blood Transfusion Units, attached to light surgical units

and field ambulances close behind the lines. They have driven and maintained the vehicles and refrigerators, acted as medical orderlies, and carried out transfusions.

This service for badly wounded men and cases of serious shock has helped in the saving of many lives, from Cairo to Tunisia, and in Sicily and Italy.

Ethiopia, India, China

In Ethiopia the Unit followed up the returning Emperor. When Haile Selassie returned in 1941, he found his country ravaged by war, the administration completely disrupted, the Italian officials displaced. In the effort to introduce reforms, establish social services, and rebuild national life, the Ethiopian Government accepted the offer of the FAU to send 40 men to assist with medical work and the development of medical services. The first party arrived in November 1941. The section now consists of seven doctors and 39 others, assisting with public health administration, in hospitals and provincial clinics, in a leprosy camp, and in schools, and with the supply of equipment and drugs.

During the past year Unit members have set to work in 11 hospitals, in addition to the Menelik Hospital in Addis Ababa, and have established and continue to supervise eight provincial clinics. Fifteen lay members and one travelling doctor are responsible for an average of over 500 out-patients a day, in addition to working in the hospitals and assisting patients in their homes, and helping the authorities with public hygiene.

And now in India's famine and disease! In the midst of scenes of appalling suffering and devastation, Unit members helped with inoculations, nursing cases of cholera and other epidemic diseases, distributing food, and organising the work of volunteers. From relief they turned to reconstruction. A hospital for children started by the Unit at Contai has now been handed over to the Bengal Civil Protection Committee. The Unit is still responsible for the feeding of 4000 children in this area.

Friends Indeed

In China, too, during the past years 40 men have been working full time on the transport of medical supplies along all the main roads of Free China. By arrangement and in co-operation with the Chinese National Health Administration, Industrial Co-operatives, International Relief Committee, and British Red Cross, large quantities are distributed monthly to military, civil, and mission hospitals and to surgical teams on the fighting fronts.

So the good work of these Friends goes on. They are men who will not take arms against their fellow men, but wherever there is fighting, wherever disease or famine are rampant, there too the Friends will go on their errands of mercy—friends indeed!

GETTING GOOD HOMES QUICKLY

WHEN the war ends one of the most urgent matters calling for attention will be the building of millions of small dwellings. Mr Alfred C. Bossom, the well-known architect and M.P., returned recently from his visit of inquiry in the United States armed with plans, documents, and designs bearing upon what has been done there to speed up house building, and he has placed them at the disposal of the Government.

As a result of his journey Mr Bossom has cleared up his mind on the subject, and has come to the conclusion that while for us in this country it remains necessary to construct the exterior of a house on the site on which it is to stand, it is possible for three-fourths of the house to be prepared and assembled in factories. Thus kitchens, bathrooms, cupboards, staircases could and should be made in factories equipped with good lighting, heating, and ventilating. Work thus done would be untroubled by bad weather and be accomplished with speed and accuracy; and, moreover, much of it could be done by women.

Mr Bossom has said that as soon as the roof of a house is on the factory-made sections could be fixed in position while the exterior is being completed.

We know that the Ministry of Health estimates a post-war need for 4 million to 5 million dwellings in addition to repairs, replacements of commercial and municipal buildings, new schools, and so on. An enormous amount of work is called for which, it is urged, lends itself to sectional building. The Ministry of Works has made an intensive study of standardisation, which helps manufacturers to take up the factory building of millions of parts.

Surely, says Mr Bossom, we cannot refuse to take advantage of a system which has already proved itself in other parts of the world. Some of the houses he had seen in America, constructed on pre-fabrication methods, were among the finest houses ever built.

We hope that many ingenious minds will apply themselves to this splendid work.

Paying An Old Debt

Finland, in the throes of the Second World War, has just paid another instalment of her First World War debt to America; it is a sum in dollars and cents equal to £54,478 15s 3½d. Finland remains the only country which has paid every instalment of its debt to America. The strange thing about it all is that Finland is fighting side by side with Germany against Russia, which is an ally of the U.S.A.

UNITY WILL BRING VICTORY

At the dinner party after the three leaders had been in conference at Teheran, Mr Churchill, in drinking Marshal Stalin's health, made the V sign as he said "To Victory!"

In a flash Stalin replied, "To victory with unity" and as he spoke he brought his fingers together and crossed them.

The League Still Lives in the I L O

A MOST important gathering took place in London in the week before Christmas, when the first European meeting of the Governing body of the International Labour Office since the fall of France was opened by Mr Bevin, Minister of Labour.

The last London meeting of the Governing Body took place in October 1938, which seems to be a long, long time ago. But the I.L.O. has been carrying on its work for the world from McGill University, Montreal, where it transferred early in the war. There were delegates from many parts of the world attending this latest gathering, and countries of Nazi-occupied Europe were represented. A note of significant confidence was struck, by the decision to hold a conference in June and resume immediately the ordinary quarterly meetings. We may well hope that an early meeting will coincide with the dawn of peace.

Whatever may have been the failures of the League as a preventer of war, and however disappointed we may have been over them, there was always one branch of the League whose work went on steadily, never interrupted, never spoiled by cynical unbelief, never wearying in good works. That was the International Labour Office, which concentrated upon getting the nations to agree upon international standards of betterment in industry.

Somehow or other the men and women of various nations who directed and staffed the

I.L.O. never lost heart, never faltered, never thought their work was not worth while because the forces of evil were too strong for them.

There was never any cynicism in the I.L.O., and as a result it has kept hundreds of thousands who might have lost faith in common effort for peace, sustained in that faith. Its work in the future will assuredly be linked up with the schemes resulting from the Atlantic Charter. It may well be one of the greatest forces making for a better world.

Orange Juice For Children

The extraordinary value of orange juice to young children makes it the more surprising to learn that only 40 out of every 100 mothers having children under five years old are availing themselves of the Government issue.

The juice is distributed at a very low price and in some cases without charge; and efforts are to be made to popularise the distribution. It is hoped to raise the figure of 40 per cent to 60 per cent or more.

"Why I want to save the children"

Tell us in not more than 250 words why YOU want to help the Save The Children Fund in its work of aiding millions of child war victims throughout the world.

12 PRIZES are offered to boys and girls for the best letters in four age groups 7-9, 10-12, 13-15, 16-18. In each group:

- 1st PRIZE — 15/- WAR SAVINGS CERTIFICATE
- 2nd PRIZE — 10/- SAVINGS STAMPS
- 3rd PRIZE — 5/- " "

Send as many entries as you like but each must be accompanied by a gift of 1/- to THE SAVE THE CHILDREN FUND.

Simple Rules. (1) Letters must be in your own writing, signed by a parent or guardian that it is your own unaided work; handwriting and neatness will be taken into consideration in judging. (2) Print your full Name, Address and Age at the foot of your letter. (3) To each letter attach a gift of 1/- postal order and send in a sealed envelope (2½d. stamp), to Room 100, Save The Children Fund, 20 Gordon Square, W.C.1. (4) Letters must reach the Fund by first post on Monday, January 24th, 1944. Sir PHILIP GIBBS, K.B.E., famous author and journalist, has kindly consented to judge all letters received, and his decision must be accepted as final. Prize winners will be announced in The Children's Newspaper, March 4, 1944. Readers are requested to interest their child acquaintances in this novel and charitable contest.

Famous for writing!

The GILLOTT range of writing pens is the finest in the world... unequalled for variety... unsurpassed for quality. At present supplies may be limited, but the GILLOTT tradition of excellence persists.

Gillott's Pens

By appointment to the late King George V

JOSEPH GILLOTT & SONS LTD. VICTORIA WORKS, BIRMINGHAM

A Safe Remedy for all the family

Oxbridge's

Lung Tonic for

COUGHS & COLDS

One size only 1/2 (including purchase tax)

What the Bell Says
Tis mine the passing hour to tell,
Tis thine to use it ill or well.

A LONDON RIDDLE
If you can't travel to the coast,
Which inland place would you like most?
The answer is, and you'll agree,
Of course you would choose Battersea!

Sauce For the Farmer



THE snow was of a nice seasonable thickness, and Jacko spent a witching hour making a fat snow goose in a neighbouring farmyard. As the farmer came out he held up his arms in astonishment at finding such a prize bird among his flock, and Jacko and Bouncer, peeping from behind a barn, thoroughly enjoyed a laugh at his expense. "I'm quite a sculptor when there's snow about," said Jacko, "but I think we had better hurry off before he cooks our goose."

The Clever Boy

"WHEN children are clever in their youth," remarked the pompous old man, "they are generally stupid and dull when they grow up."
"What a very sensible boy you must have been, sir," said the bright boy.

Opportunity

THERE was an old man who supposed
That the street door was partially closed;
But some very large rats
Ate his coats and his hats,
While that futile old gentleman dozed.

THE BRAN TUB

Misplaced Sympathy

OH, you poor boy! What a dreadfully swollen cheek you've got! Is it a tooth?
No, Mum, it's a sweet!

THE SKYLARK

LARGE flocks of skylarks may now be seen in fields where ploughing is going on or in meadows where there is plenty of clover. They run about in the grass looking for seeds, small leaves, insects, and worms.

Manners Maketh Man

ASKED to write an essay on manners, one student inquired if he might write on bad manners.
"Oh, certainly," replied the professor, "write about what you know best."

MAKING MUSIC

HERE is a noisy game for your party. Each performer taking part is provided with a wine glass and spoon; except one who acts as pianist and another as conductor. The pianist begins by playing a popular tune, and when the conductor nods his head the glass should be touched lightly on the edge with the spoon. The tune is played over again, and once more the conductor nods his head, this time the players clapping their hands. The third time the players whistle, and the fourth time laugh. The fifth time the players must decide quickly what to do, jingle with spoon, clap, whistle, or laugh.

Hercules of the Forest

THERE are nearly 300 varieties of oak trees, and their leaves are of many shapes. The common oak with its wavy leaves, the one we all know, has been named the Hercules of the Forest. It can live as long as 1500 years and is more attacked by insects than any other tree. Over 1500 insects feed on the oak. The green tassels we see on the tree in May are the male flowers; the acorn comes from the smaller female flowers.

Children's Hour

Here are details of the BBC broadcasts for Wednesday, December 29, to Tuesday, January 4.

WEDNESDAY, 5.20 Round the Shows—Visits to some Christmas shows and pantomimes. 5.55 A Christmas story from Africa by Canon Edward Daniell.

THURSDAY, 5.20 Children Among Friends—Boys and girls from other countries who have made Wales their temporary home have a party and talk about Christmas and the New Year in their own countries. 5.50 Olive Shapley's Letter from America.

FRIDAY, 5.20 Looking Backward—Two children recall the 1943 programmes they liked best.

SATURDAY, 5.20 Looking Forward at the Children's Hour programmes of the coming months. 5.45 World Affairs in 1944, by Vernon Bartlett.

SUNDAY, 5.20 Without Are Dogs, a story by V. A. Pearn, told by James McKechnie; followed by Children's Service from St Matthew's Church, Moorfields, Bristol, conducted by The Boy Bishop, Royston Clevely.

MONDAY, 5.20 Songs by Mavis Bennett's Children's Choir. 5.45 Zoo Man.

TUESDAY, 5.30 How the Lifeboat was Invented, and stories of brave rescues by Edward Harding.

Familiar Latin Phrases

Quidnunc? what now? a gossip.
Infra dignitatem, below one's dignity.

Per contra, contrariwise.
Nil desperandum, never despair.

Quid pro quo, one thing for another, an equivalent.

Pro bono publico, for the public good.

Other Worlds

IN the evening, Mars, Saturn, and Uranus are in the south and Jupiter is in the east. In the morning Venus is in the south-east and Jupiter is in the south-west. The picture shows the moon as it may be seen at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, December 29.

may be seen at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, December 29.

Peter Puck's Pudding

TAKE a pair of helping hands,
Good will and love, then, after
All you have of happiness
And mix them well with laughter.
Stir with courage. Don't forget
Good humour for a flavour.
Serve with content and give the whole
A sweet and simple savour.

A New Year Thought

THE Old Year has done what it could for me.
All of it that was good for me
Has now become a part of me.
Whatever the New may bring to me
May only the good of it cling to me,
And enter into the heart of me.
William Herbert Carruth

TRICKY

TAKE a penny in each hand and stretch out the hands as far apart as possible, one from the other. Now tell the company that you will make both pennies come into whichever hand they care to select, without bringing the hands together.
All you have to do to perform the feat is to lay one of the pennies on the table and then, turning your body round, pick up this penny with the other hand in which a penny is already held.

Proof Positive

"BERTIE," said his mother, sorrowfully, "every time you are naughty I get another grey hair."
"You must have been a terror, then," replied Bertie, "look at grandpa."

LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

LOC	STARE
IF	TURRET
S	TREAT
THOU	N
SEEM	SALT
M	P
A	DETER
WAITER	IS
LAPSE	BEE

Word Square
GIFT
ICES
FETE
TSEZ

How Many
Turkeys?
Three



Mother! Child's Best Laxative is 'California Syrup of Figs'

Children love the pleasant taste of 'California Syrup of Figs,' and gladly take it even when bilious, feverish, sick or constipated. No other laxative regulates the tender little bowels so nicely. It sweetens the stomach and moves the bowels without cramping or over-acting.

Millions of mothers depend upon this gentle, harmless laxative.

Tell your chemist you want 'California Syrup of Figs,' which has full directions for babies and children of all ages.

Obtainable everywhere at 1/4 and 2/6.

RESULTS OF OCTOBER BSA MISSING WORD COMPETITION

For the best and most apt sets of answers, of equal merit, the judges have awarded prizes to the following entrants:—
Master Clifford Ashcroft, Orrell, nr. Wigan; Master William Webb, London, N.15; Master P. Philtrip, London, S.E.23; Miss Christine Harvey, Peterhead; Master L. R. Tuckwell, Hayes, Middx.; Master J. A. Watson, Prescott, Lancs.; each receiving an equal share of the £10 in prizes.

Looking Forward

we face the future with confidence. Come what may, our work will continue amongst the poor who live so courageously in the most discouraging surroundings. Please help with a New Year's gift.

The REV. PERCY INESON, Supt.,
The EAST END MISSION (Founded 1885),
Bromley Street, Commercial Road,
Stepney, E.1.

His teeth need YOUR care-

Mother, you can do something for your child for which he will thank you throughout his life. By taking proper care now you can ensure his having sound teeth when he grows up. Dentists advise the use of the one toothpaste containing 'Milk of Magnesia', which corrects acid-mouth—so often the cause of dental decay.

The toothpaste to ask for is Phillips' Dental Magnesia. Train your children to use it night and morning. They love its pleasant mild flavour.

1/1d. and 1/10½d.



* 'Milk of Magnesia' is the trade mark of Phillips' preparation of magnesia.